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Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

April 3, 2009

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McChord lends support, hangar to Elmendorf Airmen

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

McChord continues to lend its support to Airmen and aircraft from Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, providing heavy maintenance support for two C-17 Globemaster IIIs evacuated in advance of the March 22 eruption of Mount Redoubt.

The 3rd Wing has repositioned aircraft as a precautionary measure to prevent possible ash damage. The base moved four F-15 Eagles, one E-3 Sentry AWACS and one C-17 to Eielson AFB, Alaska, and sent the other two C-17s to McChord. All other Elmendorf aircraft are sheltered in place.

The 62nd Airlift Wing is providing a hangar and support equipment to allow Elmendorf maintainers to accomplish home station checks on the two aircraft they evacuated here, said Col. Tracy Smiedendorf, 62nd Maintenance Group commander.

Last week one of the Elmendorf aircraft required an axle change and the wing provided personnel and support equipment to help certify the Elmendorf technicians to accomplish the task.

"We've always had a close rela-

tionship with the 3rd Wing since their C-17s used to be assigned to McChord and some of their maintainers came from here as well," Colonel Smiedendorf said. "As soon as we learned about the volcano erupting, we've tried to go the extra mile to help them out any way we can to keep the global mobility mission moving."

While the hangars are a busy place with Elmendorf C-17s and Airmen are here, because of the close relationship and familiarity the two wings share, day-to-day operations are going very smoothly, said Chief Master Sgt. Robert Thomas, 62nd Maintenance Squadron superintendent.

"They've come down here and really integrated their workforce into ours," Chief Thomas said. "We had previously laid the ground work and formulated a playbook for everything, so it's really an established process."

McChord maintainers are providing assistance to the Elmendorf maintainers as they accomplish their mission, as well as providing sheet metal, fuel cell and communication/navigation support for the Elmendorf aircraft as well, he said.

Elmendorf maintainers have been working around the clock and even



Photo by Abner Guzman

Senior Airman Timothy Shelton, 3rd Equipment Maintenance Squadron, removes engine covers as part of a home station check of a C-17 Globemaster III in Hangar 1 Monday.

over the weekend in order to work with McChord maintainers' schedules when it comes to using the hangars, said Master Sgt. Phil Bigham, 3rd Equipment Maintenance

Squadron maintenance flight superintendent.

"McChord has really stepped-up to help us out with anything we need," Sergeant Bigham said.

Sport bike class prepares riders for 'bumps in road'

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

Youth and inexperience mixed with a high-horsepower sport bike can be a potentially deadly combination. The 62nd Airlift Wing Ground Safety team aims to educate young sport bike riders and keep them safe on the roads.

The ground safety office hosted its first sport bike class of the season Monday as eight riders discussed technique and bike specifications, viewed a safety video and put "tire to the tarmac" on the flightline.

The class aims at changing the behavior of young riders and educating them on proper riding techniques, said co-instructor Tech. Sgt. Carlos Damian, 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

"We're not here to beat them over the head with safety videos," Sergeant Damian said. "We're concerned with teaching them the proper cornering techniques. Anyone can ride in a straight line, but the turns are where the accidents happen."

Along with co-instructor Master Sgt. Mark



Photo by Abner Guzman

Airman 1st Class Kayla Whitehurst, 62nd Maintenance Squadron, left, looks on as Master Sgt. Mark Gilbertson, 373rd Training Squadron, Det. 12, performs a suspension check of her sport bike prior to the riding portion of the class.

Gilbertson, 373rd Training Squadron, Det. 12, Sergeant Damian also taught a session on how to set up and interpret each bike's suspension.

"A lot of riders don't even know about the suspension setup," he said. "It can have a lot to do

with why the bike does what it does and how it handles in certain situations."

Many young riders go out and purchase a sport bike before experiencing first-hand the great power-to-weight ratio many of the new bikes have and just how dangerous they can be, Sergeant Damian said. "Every time I see a young Airman on a powerful bike it still makes me nervous."

Using a mentoring approach to teach the class and giving young riders the tools and techniques to handle their bike and attitudes about riding, some of those risks can be mitigated, he said.

Airman 1st Class Kayla Whitehurst, 62nd Maintenance Squadron, spent most of her early years riding sport bikes on flat roads in North Carolina. After moving to McChord, she's seen more mountain roads than flat roads. The class helped her develop her technique to better handle mountain roads.

"The different handling techniques were good," said Airman Whitehurst, who's been riding for four years. "I learned about how body positing on the bike really comes into play when you're going into a corner. The class was very helpful."

The next sport bike class is April 21. To register call the ground safety office at 982-5325.

Weekend Weather

FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY



Hi: 51 Hi: 54 Hi: 57
Low: 34 Low: 36 Low: 39

Forecast generated at 7 a.m. Thursday
Courtesy of the 62nd Operations Support Squadron

Countdown to success

Next MOBEX..... 28 days

Rodeo..... 108 days

Operational
Readiness Inspection..... 206 days

Don't miss it ...

'Back-to-Basics' day
April 10

See Page 14 for schedule



Each year, the Air Force Association, working with major command level command chief master sergeants and the Office of the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, selects a specific Air Force career field for recognition as the Air Force Team of the Year.

This year's team of the year are the Airmen of Air Force Specialty Code 3E8X1, Explosive Ordnance Disposal.

The individual members selected to represent the chosen career field are professionals who clearly display superior technical expertise,

attract the praise of their superiors and provide leadership and inspiration to others.

The following individuals are representing the EOD career field this year:

- Senior Master Sgt. Gus Hamilton III
- Technical Sgt. Heath T. Tempel
- Staff Sgt. Phillip M. Dyer
- Senior Airman Cooper W. Gibson
- Senior Airman Jasmine M. Nakayama

These five Airmen will represent their profession in a presentation ceremony in Washington, D.C.

While in the district, the Airmen will tour the Capitol and other sites, meet senior Air Force and Congressional leaders, and accept awards on behalf of their career field at a ceremony hosted by the AFA. This year's ceremony is scheduled Monday at the Air Force Memorial.

In the recent past, the following career fields have been recognized as the team of the year: Air Force Office of Special Investigations, Expeditionary Medics, Services, Vehicle Operators, and Command and Control.

“Every Airman can be proud

of our fellow warriors in the EOD community and the tremendous job they are doing around the globe,” said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley. “Their dedication, skill, and determination are securing and protecting the lives of fellow Airmen, Marines, Soldiers, Sailors, and Coalition forces everyday.”

Airman's Roll Call is designed for supervisors at all levels to help keep Airmen informed on current issues, clear up confusion, dispel rumors, and provide additional face-to-face communication between supervisors and their teams.

'Fit to Fight' — an essential element of service

By

Lt. Col. Robert Kafka

62nd Security Forces Squadron commander

Are you 'Fit to Fight'? No, really, are you 'Fit to Fight'? Before you answer this question you need to know: What is 'Fit to Fight' and why is it important to be 'Fit to Fight'?

Being 'Fit to Fight', according to a former Air Force chief of staff, is not about “passing a fitness test once a year. More importantly, we are changing the culture of the Air Force ... preparedness to deploy and fight. It's about warriors. It's about instilling an expectation that makes fitness a daily standard — an essential

part of your service.”

It's important to be 'Fit to Fight' because you're less prone to develop certain diseases, you're more mentally sharp, you can perform your duties better and can be relied upon to complete your duties and handle more stress. Eating wisely and in moderation, not smoking, drinking alcohol in moderation (or not at all), and getting sufficient sleep can assist you in being 'Fit to Fight' (in addition to having a structured physical fitness workout program).

So, who's in charge of your unit's 'Fit to Fight' program? According to the Air Force, your unit commander is responsible for establishing and executing the fitness portion of your 'Fit to Fight' program. Additionally, the base's Health and Wellness Center provides fitness guidance to

commanders and base members.

Ultimately, you are responsible for your fitness/health level and being 'Fit to Fight'. Whether at home station or in a deployed environment, you never know when your being 'Fit to Fight' will be called into question. Being 'Fit to Fight' cannot happen overnight and must be maintained year round. Even during the weekend and off-duty time, while it is okay to relax and unwind, don't forget to exercise, too!

I'll ask again, are you 'Fit to Fight'? If you are not 'Fit to Fight', today is a great day to get 'Fit to Fight' for not only yourself but also your family, friends and fellow Airmen. I'll see you around the gym, running track, flightline for wing runs, and elsewhere on base exercising in order to be 'Fit to Fight'!

The Sharp Airman ...

knows the “**A-B-C**”s of Self-Aid and Buddy Care.

- Open Airway (possible neck injury, use jaw thrust maneuver, DO NOT turn head)

- Ensure **B**reathing
- Support **C**irculation (stop bleeding, immobilize neck injuries)
- Prevent further **D**isability (place dressings over open wounds and splint obvious limb deformities)
- Minimize further **E**xposure to adverse weather

PROFESSIONALS

of the week

62nd Maintenance Operations Squadron

Christine Blosser

Duty Title:
62nd MOS secretary

Duty section:
62nd MOS commander's support staff

Hometown:
Lakewood, Wash.

Why she's super:

Ms. Blosser has served more than 20 years in the civil service sector, including 16 years in the 62nd MOS. She has served many squadron commanders and is key to the long-term continuity in the squadron. She is a member of the squadron booster club and mentors young Airmen performing booster club duties, fostering and improving squadron morale. She is a skilled and valuable squadron member.



Tech. Sgt. Cleophus Burks

Duty Title:
Communication/navigation mission systems instructor

Duty section:
62nd MOS training flight

Hometown:
Jacksonville, N.C.

Why he's tops:

Sergeant Burks teaches three C-17 Globemaster III maintenance courses, and recently taught more than 100 students Self-Aid and Buddy Care in two days to prepare for the mobility exercise. He also audited the 5/6 Club as a result of transitioning treasures without error, and serves at the squadron's lead physical training leader. In addition, Sergeant Burks also led PT sessions for First Term Airman Center and Airman Leadership School students as well.



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Equity officials utilizing ‘green’ demolition practices

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

There is a ‘green’ purpose behind the many piles of demolition debris throughout Cascade Village housing complex.

Scattered around a mountain of torn-up wood are piles of vinyl siding, scrap metal flashings, brick and concrete rubble.

All of the piles will be recycled or reused in one way or another with very little going to the landfill.

“It’s becoming a whole new generation of demolition,” said Boyd

Lucas, Vice President of Construction Management for Equity Residential. “Ten years ago nearly all of this would have gone to the landfill.”

The mountain of wood scrap is headed for a plant in Everett which will grind it up to generate power for a steam plant, while the concrete and brick rubble will be ground up and reutilized as road fill elsewhere in the housing project, Lucas said.

The scrap metal and vinyl will also be recycled.

Neatly arranged under carports are rows of bedroom doors, washing machines, driers, refrigera-

tors, stoves and stacks of ceiling fans. All of the items are staged to be moved to a secondhand warehouse in Thurston County owned by a local Habitat for Humanity group.

“Those items can really come in handy for residents down south who lost everything during the floods in January,” Mr. Lucas said.

Although the ‘green’ demolition takes a little longer than a standard demo, McChord housing officials say it was an initiative they eagerly supported and it fit perfect with the project timeline.

“The base has been very supportive of the green demolition,”

said Cal Lovering, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron housing privatization project support contractor. “There was also some substantial cost savings in the reuse of materials in the overall project.”

“Green demolition benefits the project and our community” said Donna Dahlstrom, 62nd CES housing asset manager. “This is something that we fostered since the beginning of the project. It’s a real positive for us to be able to give back to the local community with many of the items going to the secondhand warehouse which under normal circumstances may have gone to a landfill.”



Equity Residential workers load scrap wood into a pile which will be trucked to a steam plant in Everett where it will be used for fuel.

Water heaters, stoves, doors and ceiling fans will be donated to a secondhand warehouse in Thurston County run by Habitat for Humanity.



USAFE CCM discusses Women’s History Month

By
Senior Airman Kristopher Levasseur
48th Fighter Wing
Public Affairs

ROYAL AIR FORCE LAKENHEATH, England (AFNS) — The U.S. Air Forces in Europe command chief spoke recently with Royal Air Force Lakenheath Airmen about how women have played a large part in history, which is especially true in the military.

Chief Master Sgt. Pamela Derrow visited RAF Lakenheath March 25 and spoke to base Airmen about the significance of Women’s History Month.

“Women’s History Month is very important because it recognizes and celebrates the historic achievements of women,” Chief Derrow said. “I think that in the past, the role of American women was consistently overlooked and probably undervalued sometimes in literature, teachings and history prior to the 1980s. Since then, I think we have done a much better job educating people on the significant role women play in American history and contemporary society.”

Women’s History Month has a notable significance for the military in particular because of the important job the military has, she said.

Chief Derrow also took a moment to discuss this year’s Women’s History Month theme, “Women taking the lead to save our planet.” The goal of this year’s campaign is to focus on the wonders of the earth and the role women can play in saving it.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Perry Aston

Chief Master Sgt. Pamela Derrow visits the new child development center March 25 at Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England. Chief Derrow visited RAF Lakenheath as a guest speaker for the Women’s History Month luncheon, responded to Airmen’s questions and concerns, and visited various units. Chief Derrow is the U.S. Air Forces in Europe command chief.

“It is upon us to make our world safer,” the chief said. “We also have to balance that with taking care of our environment. It is important that we get together to try to solve the problems and issues.

“This year’s theme was very timely considering that we are facing the repercussions of climate change and diminishing natural resources,” Chief Derrow said. “When I was an Airman growing up, I never really thought

about the conservation of energy. Now that I have a son who is in the Air Force, I think, “Will the environment be there for him? Will he have the same things that I had growing up? Will the parks, nature reserves, lakes and wilderness be there for him and hopefully my grandchildren in the future?”

Chief Derrow went on to explain that Women’s History month is not just a celebration for women.

“I always think ‘Airmen first,’ and in the military, I don’t really consider myself a woman, I consider myself an Airman,” Chief Derrow said. “That being said, Women’s History Month is an excellent opportunity to bring not just women, but men together to celebrate what women bring to the fight. Only by working together, will we be able to come up with solutions to common problems such as the environment.”





Photo by Abner Guzman

Celebrating history

Col. Jeffrey Stephenson, 62nd Airlift Wing commander, right, presents guest speakers Eva Abram, right of podium, and Sylvia Maine, 62nd Force Support Squadron, with a token of appreciation following the Women's History Month celebration Friday at the base theater. Ms. Abram performed theatrical impersonations at the event, acting out roles of female pioneers such as Rosa Parks and Eleanor Roosevelt. The celebration honored women throughout history whose courage and dedication have sustained the American spirit, broken down barriers and created new opportunities.



Retiree Dining Out set for April 17

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

Retirees from all branches of the military have the opportunity to gather, enjoy a meal and honor their own April 17 as part of the annual Retiree Dining Out event at the McChord Clubs and Community Center.

The bar opens at 6 p.m. and a choice of king salmon or prime rib dinner is served at 6:40 p.m.

The event gives local retirees and their spouses a chance to visit with each other and talk about the different volunteer opportunities the McChord Retiree Office offers, said volunteer Ruth Sharp.

“It’s a great chance to meet new people and get more information on events we have going on at the R-A-O,” Ms. Sharp said.

Col. Shane Hershman, McChord’s Joint Base realignment

director, is the guest speaker for the event, and volunteers Dorothy and Norman Johnson will receive the Volunteer of the Year award.

“We’re very excited to have Colonel Hershman speak this year,” said Retiree Activities Office volunteer Hal Halford. “His presentation will be of great interest to those who utilize the services offered at McChord and Fort Lewis.”

For registration, people can call the McChord Clubs and Community Center at 982-5581, or complete the reservation form included in the March-April issue of the Hanger Flying Newsletter. Those interested can also visit the RAO Web Site at www.mcchordrao.com and print out a copy of the reservation form. Event officials hope to have all reservations confirmed by April 15.

The RAO is located in the Customer Service Mall area of Bldg. 100 and is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to noon.



Photo by Jason Kaye

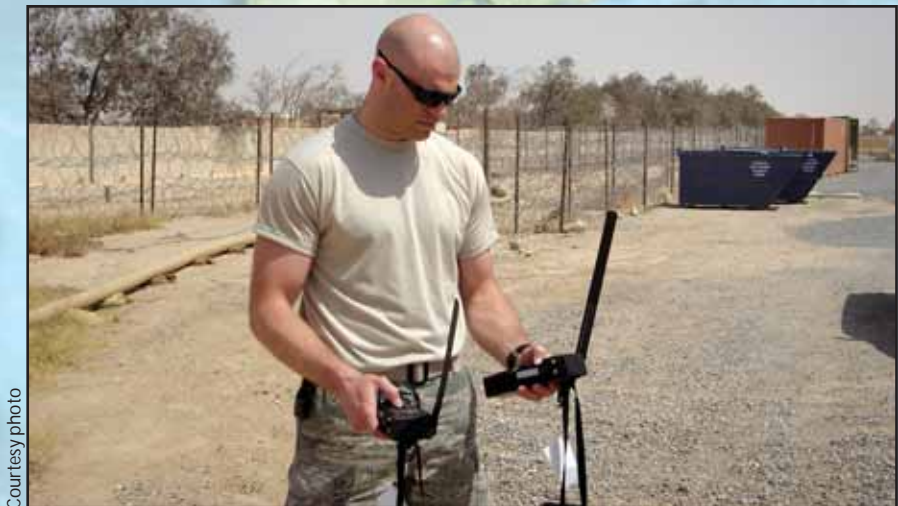
Command change

Col. Robert Evans accepts command of the 1st Air Support Operations Group from Brig. Gen. Douglas Owens, 13th Air Force vice commander, as Senior Master Sgt. Amy Morgan, 1st ASOG first sergeant, stands by to secure the guidon March 23. Outgoing 1st ASOG Commander Col. Vicent Savino relinquished command. Prior to accepting command, Colonel Evans served as the Chief of Strategy, Concepts and Wargaming Division, Directorate of Operational Planning, Policy and Strategy, Headquarters, Air Force.



McChord Airmen

AROUND THE WORLD



SOUTHWEST ASIA – Staff Sgt. Nathan Schasse, 62nd Operations Support Squadron, acquires satellite information on a Combat Survivor/Evader Locator preflight during a recent deployment.



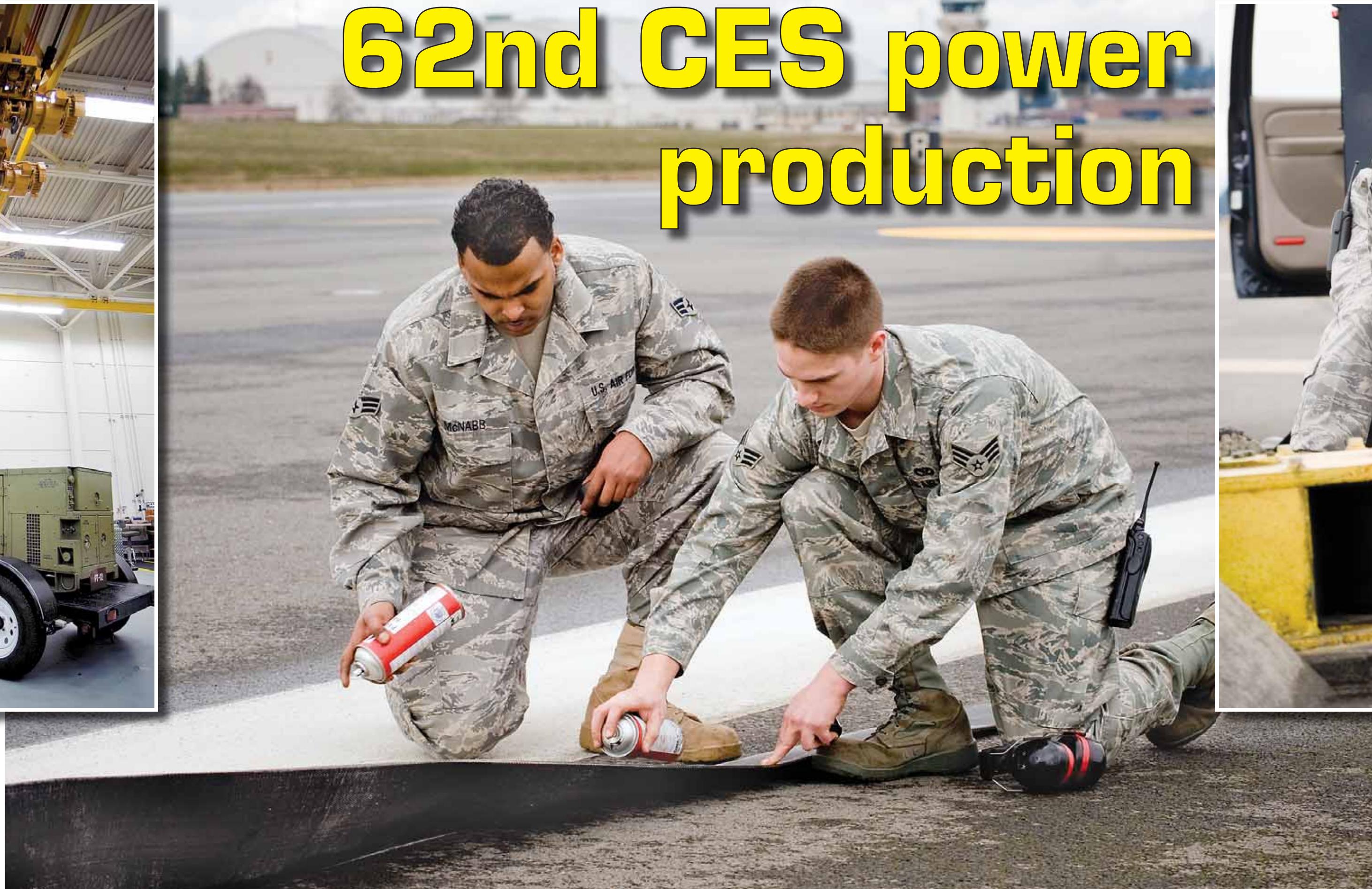
TURKEY – Tech. Sgt. Amy Weger and Airman 1st Class Fernando Mendoza, Jr., both 62nd Operations Support Squadron, program Combat Survivor/Evader Locator radios during a recent deployment to Incirlik Air Base.



62nd CES power production



Airman McNabb positions the shops automatic crane before relocating a mobile generator.



Senior Airmen Osealoe McNabb, left, and Dominic Okapal, both 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron, spray an aerosol sealer on the barrier arresting kit tape while performing a monthly operational inspection on the flightline.



Airman McNabb performs a monthly inspection of the barrier arresting kit on the southeast end of the flightline.



Airman Okapal inspects one of the aircraft arresting systems.

In a below-ground bunker mere feet from the runway, Senior Airman Osealoe McNabb, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron, marvels at the 24,000-pound piece of machinery he spends a majority of his time maintaining.

"Lots of people don't know what we do," Airman McNabb said. "Aircraft arresting systems are pretty much out of sight, out of mind."

But that's not the case for the 62nd CES 12-person power production shop. Maintaining, servicing and observing the systems are a large part of the shop's work load.

The arresting system is strictly for stopping fighter and bomber aircraft in emergency situations, and is tested once per year here, usually by an A-6 Intruder from Naval Air Station Whidbey Island in nearby Oak Harbor, Airman McNabb said.

McChord's two aircraft arresting systems — one at each end of the flightline — are buried in separate bunkers on adjacent sides of the runway. When an in-motion aircraft develops an emergency, the aircrew has to decide if it needs to use the arresting system. If needed, the pilot deploys the aircraft's arresting hook, and lands the plane at least 1,000 feet from the arresting system.

The hook drags on the surface of the runway until it comes in contact with the 1.25-inch steel cable. Once the aircraft's hook captures the cable, the cable rips the nylon cords, holding it flat on the runway, and unravels its attached nylon tapes from the storage reels housed in the bunkers.

As the tapes are unraveled, the reels turn a hydraulic pump that applies pressure to a set of modified brakes.

It is these brakes that bring the aircraft to a stop, Airman McNabb said.

"It's a great system that saves lives and aircraft," he said.

Once the system is unraveled, a small diesel motor helps the hydraulic pump reel back in the chords. 62nd CES Airmen perform daily, weekly and monthly inspections on various parts of the system from everything to the motor which drives the pump to the nylon tapes which catch the hook.

In addition to overseeing the arresting system, the shop also inspects and maintains more than 75 portable and stationary generators on base, said Staff Sgt. Preston Teegarden, 62nd CES.

The shop's generator arsenal includes the small generators which can be carried by two people all the way up to the enormous ones which have to be towed by a truck.

"The 30-K generators will run a good size building," Sergeant Teegarden said.

The shop saves aircraft on the flightline, but also in the hangars, as it maintains the deluge pumps in the rafters.

"In the event of a fire, these pumps shoot foam into the hangar to coat the aircraft and save it from potential damage," Sergeant Teegarden said.

Even the shop's location at the south end of the base near the E Ramp — allowing for quick response to the flightline for the arresting system — adds to its status as having a quiet role in the mission.

Airman McNabb is fine with that.

"When the power goes out, everybody comes running looking for us," he said with a laugh.

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer



Airmen McNabb and Okapal prepare to hoist a defective generator to a DRMO staging area in preparation for transportation.

Air Force leaders discuss top Air Force issues

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Air Force senior leaders discussed key issues facing the service during Corona South March 27 and Saturday at Bolling Air Force Base here.

Corona meetings, hosted by the secretary of the Air Force and Air Force chief of staff, are held several times a year to bring together major command commanders, Air Staff civilian leaders, Air Force combatant commanders and the chief master sergeant of the Air Force. The purpose is to advance discussion or make decisions on challenges facing the Air Force.

Air Force Secretary Michael Donley and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz also use Corona as a forum to solicit feedback on major Air Force initiatives prior to implementation and keep senior leaders informed on Department of Defense and administration issues.

Secretary Donley opened the “Executing the Joint Fight” themed-conference with a general update on the current status and timeline for the president’s budget

and subsequent related congressional hearing schedule.

In his opening remarks, General Schwartz told participants he welcomed their “frank discussions” on the issues presented.

Attendees received an update on the process for the Defense Department’s upcoming Quadrennial Defense Review, as well as briefings on counterinsurgency/irregular warfare, Air Force network command and control and a case study on readiness.

Air component sizing was also a discussion item, including how to best use the manpower authorizations committed to that mission set. Attendees were advised that this topic would be further examined in the coming months, with a proposal expected for delivery this summer.

Key Air Force priorities also were addressed, including progress reports on nuclear enterprise and acquisition excellence initiatives.

A status update on the Air Force nuclear roadmap, now six months

into implementation, was briefed. Both the secretary and the chief expressed support to engage unit commanders now that the major policy pieces have been addressed and as Global Strike Command-related activities move ahead.

“Bringing commanders into the process now will operationally ground those policies,” said General Schwartz, “helping to re-establish the culture of precision and reliability in our nuclear enterprise.”

The Corona agenda also included discussion of significant initiatives to address the Air Force’s priority to recapture acquisition excellence, together with progress on the development of the service’s acquisition improvement plan.

The secretary called the intended spring rollout of the acquisition improvement plan “good news.”

“The Air Force has taken a close look at itself and has been working the issue hard,” said Secretary Donley. “We recognize how complex the acquisition enterprise is and we must continue to strengthen our

workforce and internal procedures so we can deliver products and services that perform as promised, on time, within budget.”

Developing Airmen was another priority area addressed through numerous personnel and manpower briefings. Personnel issues included an update on Air Force diversity efforts, advanced academic degree consideration and the command chief selection process.

On the enlisted side, senior raters will play a larger role in the command chief selection process, helping to widen the list of chief master sergeant candidates considered for these leadership positions.

Regarding Air Force organization, attendees were briefed on organizational thresholds and criteria for defining squadron, group and wing units. The group decided major commands must re-certify all non-standard organizations to ensure the structure of each doesn’t exceed the established manpower standard for unit size without a waiver.



Air Force officials hold Caring for People Forum

By
Staff Sgt. Patrick Brown
Defense Media Activity — San Antonio

ARLINGTON, Va. (AFNS) — More than 200 Air Force behavioral specialists, chaplains, family advocacy personnel and other family support members gathered to discuss how to care for the Air Force family Wednesday here.

The Year of the Air Force Family: Caring for People Forum started in a hotel in the shadow of the Air Force Memorial and blocks away from Arlington National Cemetery.

The forum is the official start of the Year of the Air Force family and will provide professionals from around the Air Force an opportunity to discuss issues and develop programs to better suit the needs of the Air Force family.

“It’s vitally important to take care of our family members because they take care of us,” said Lt. Gen. Richard Y. Newton III, the deputy

chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services at Headquarters Air Force.

“We have Airmen deployed in over 135 different locations across the world,” he said. “All the while, we still have Airmen launching F-22 (Raptors) off the flightline at Langley (Air Force Base in Virginia), maintaining and safeguarding (intercontinental ballistic missiles) at Minot (AFB in North Dakota) in all kinds of weather ... so my message to you is this: this is not a passing fancy of ours for 2009; this will be the year of the family. It’s about taking care of our families because they are absolutely vital to our Air Force and our nation.”

General Newton stressed that family members are part of the Air Force team and must be provided for in order for the Air Force to maintain excellence in air, space and cyberspace.

“I want you to roll up your sleeves and think broadly in terms of how we can provide more support for our family members as they serve alongside us, so they are better prepared to meet the challenges that Air Force life has to offer.”

Dr. Angela Huebner, an associate professor with Virginia Polytechnic Institutes and State University’s Department of Human Development was the keynote speaker. Dr. Huebner conducts research on military family issues, particularly those related to deployment adjustment. Her work is widely cited and often used to help inform family support initiatives.

In her last Defense Department study, Dr. Huebner worked with military children face-to-face and said the most immediate impact of her work helped to give the children a sense of community.

“I feel like it gives them an idea that they are not alone,” she said. “In our study, these kids were sitting around talking to each other about how they dealt with stress. One young person would say they

might deal with it by writing in a journal and another would have another idea, so they got to come up with a whole new repertoire of things they could do when they got stressed.”

Dr. Huebner echoed General Newton’s stance on the Air Force family and the branch’s duty to commit to its family.

“There are a lot of issues facing military families today,” she said. “The more we can get that out there, including what’s going well, the better off they’ll be. They’re giving such a service to the country and we need to be able to give that back.”

Forum attendees broke into working groups to discuss needs and initiatives in five areas: deployment support, family support, school support, special needs child support, Guard and Reserve family support and single Airman support. The groups were scheduled to present the top five initiatives Thursday to General Newton.



Language emerges as element of national security

By
Tim Kilbride
Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Language and culture are “almost inextricably intertwined,” and military personnel must be knowledgeable in both to be fully effective when operating overseas, the director of a military language school said.

Army Col. Sue Ann Sandusky, commandant of the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, told bloggers and online journalists during a “DOD Live” bloggers roundtable Monday that the DLI directly supports military commanders by instructing servicemembers in the foreign languages that regional combatant commands identify as mission-essential.

“We are the primary deliverer of military culturally-based language training,” Colonel Sandusky said of the Monterey, Calif., school.

The school was established in secret just prior to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, in 1941. Since then, it has been perceived as a resource specific to the intelligence and translation military career fields, but in fact it also serves the needs of the “general-purpose forces,” Colonel Sandusky said.

Educating the general service has been a major growth area for DLI since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, she noted.

DLI teaches 24 foreign languages in Monterey, Colonel Sandusky said. Instruction in additional languages is

available elsewhere through contracted programs.

A separate school, the Defense Language Institute English Language Center in San Antonio, teaches English mostly to foreign officers who come to train in U.S. schools. The Air Force administers that program.

“We’re driven by the requirements of the services,” she said. “They come up with their requirements based on the assessments of the different areas of operation, ... coming up with what you might call a strategic language list, and then passing specific requirements for training down to DLI.”

For mission success, learning about the cultures they will be operating in is as important to servicemembers as learning the languages, Colonel Sandusky said.

“Culture is both implicit and explicit in our curriculum,” she explained. “[It is] explicit in the sense that we have area studies and culture courses ... delivered in the target language, so they’re learning about the history, politics, geography, culture, ceremonies, art [and] literature in the target language in the course. ... And the implicit part is our instructors come from the cultures where the language is used.”

Having native speakers from the target countries work as instructors means they bring into the classroom “culture at many different levels, from the behavioral dos and don’ts to food, film, music, art, artifacts, up to the more abstract sort of frames of reference: definitions of culture, the understanding of beauty and evil and authority and obligation, all of those

deep-culture concepts that are arising from the same sort of impulses that the language itself arises from,” Colonel Sandusky said.

“We see language and culture as very intertwined, almost inextricably intertwined, and we handle them together right from Day 1,” she said.

At any one time, about 3,000 students are served by about 1,700 civilian faculty and staff, Colonel Sandusky said. In addition to language instructors, staff members are involved in test, curriculum and faculty development, among other supporting functions. Ninety-eight percent of the instructors are native speakers of the languages they teach.

Students are instructed and tested in three major areas: reading, listening and speaking. Writing is also taught, but not tested. Listening and reading proficiency are graded with the Defense Language Proficiency Test, and speaking is tested with the Oral Proficiency Interview.

As a measure of effectiveness, Colonel Sandusky explained, graduates of a six-month Spanish course at DLI will typically speak better than a graduating Spanish major at a four-year university. An 18-month Arabic course at DLI equates to roughly 10.5 full-load semester hours of language and area studies at a university.

While students attending the school for immersion courses achieve the best results, DLI instructors also work with the military services and commands to offer introductory familiarization and training in a variety of capacities, Colonel Sandusky said.

“We’ve got what we call ‘language

survival kits,’ which are kind of what you would need if you are going in on a humanitarian mission,” she said. Just a very basic familiarization: Stop. Don’t shoot. Take me to your leader. Where does it hurt? Is this water clean? All kinds of very basic survival-oriented phrases. It’s not a language-learning course at all, but they certainly would serve you well if you were going into an unfamiliar setting.”

Pre-deployment training for large units is done through mobile training teams, Colonel Sandusky said. About 80,000 servicemembers have been trained in practical, military-oriented words and phrases using language survival kits, as well as other DLI programs and materials.

She noted that DLI has the capacity to embed instructors with deployed units.

DLI instructors make available a variety of other language and culture tools to servicemembers and members of the public wishing to maintain or enhance their foreign language skills, Colonel Sandusky said.

Among the materials available on the DLI Web site, the Global Language Online Support System offers pre-packaged lessons at various proficiency levels for autonomous students. These are available at <http://gloss.lingnet.org>.

DLI offers “Countries in Perspective” and “Field Support” multimedia downloads that give overviews of language and culture, broken down by country and language, Colonel Sandusky said. These are available at <http://fieldsupport.lingnet.org/index.aspx>.





NAMES To NOTE

Congratulations to the Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter 1461 annual award winners!

First-term Airman of the year – **Airman 1st Class Bethany Pattee**, previously 62nd Medical Support Squadron
NCO of the year – **Tech. Sgt. Shane Hobrecht**, 5th Air Support Operations Squadron

More than 70 tickets are still available at Adventures Unlimited for the seventh annual “Salute to Armed Forces Night,” as the Seattle Mariners take on the Detroit Tigers April 18.

Tickets are just \$10 – seats are in rows 14-18 of section 323. The deadline to pre-order tickets is Monday. For more information, call 982-2206.



Do you have a story idea? Spread the news in The NW Airlifter! Call Public Affairs at 982-5637 or e-mail us at northwestairlifter@mcchord.af.mil



'Back-to-Basics' safety focus day

April 10 is “Back-to-Basics” day, and group briefings are scheduled in the base theater as follows:
7 to 8:30 a.m. – 62nd Maintenance Group day shift
8:30 to 10 a.m. – 62nd Director of Staff and 62nd Medical Squadron
10 a.m. to noon – 62nd Operations Group
1 to 2:30 p.m. – 62nd Mission Support Group
3 to 4:30 p.m. – 62nd MXG night shift

Parent University

The 12th annual Parent University seminar is 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at Evergreen Elementary School on Fort Lewis. For more information, call 982-9043 or 967-5901.

McChord Phoenix Spouse voicemail

The Phoenix Spouse program here now has voicemail (982-PHNX) for families wanting to contact or get more information about their unit’s Phoenix Spouses. The voicemail gives every squadron the ability to have a personalized mailbox where people can leave messages for Phoenix Spouses.

Chili cook off

The 4th Airlift Squadron’s annual chili cook off and homebrew competition is 4:44 p.m. Saturday at Holiday Park. This year’s contest also features family activities and door prizes. For more information or to RSVP, call 982-4111.

Arbor Day celebration

The McChord Arbor Day celebration is 3:30 p.m. April 16 across

from the McChord Clubs and Community Center on West Entrance Road, between Fairway Drive and Warehouse Road. For more information, call 982-3913.

Rape Aggression Defense classes

RAD classes for women are 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesday; April 13, 20 and 27. To register or for more information, call 982-0473.

Tree planting ceremony

The Sexual Assault Awareness month tree planting ceremony is 1 p.m. April 13 in front of the Chapel Support Complex. For more information, call 982-0473.

Fort Lewis-McChord Autism run/walk

The second Autism “fun run/walk” and resource fair, presented by the Fort Lewis-McChord Autism Support Group, is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 18 at Cowan Stadium on Fort Lewis. The event is open to everyone with access to the installation, and registration is recommended, but not required. For more information, call 589-2572, 588-8783, or visit: <http://flmcafbasg.clubspaces.com>.

Retiree Activities

The Retiree Activities Office is looking for volunteers to assist with upcoming events and work in the office located in the customer service mall in Bldg. 100. The RAO is a resource and referral center which offers information concerning issues pertinent to retirees, including ID cards, DEERS, Tri-Care, health benefit changes, social security and Space available travel.
This year’s annual dining out event is set for 6 p.m. April 17

at the McChord Clubs and Community Center. In addition to the banquet, the event includes a guest speaker and historical military reenactment.
The RAO is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon. For more information on the RAO or the dining out event, call the office at 982-3214 or visit www.mcchordrao.com.

Flu shots now available

Flu vaccine is now available for active duty family members and retirees at the Immunizations Clinic on McChord. For more information, call 982-5189.

Base firewood permits

A considerable supply of “you-cut” firewood will soon be available for personnel willing to obtain a base firewood permit. To add your name to the wait list, email Carol.


Lee@mcchord.af.mil with your full name and telephone number. The wait list will be used to notify a group of firewood cutters to obtain a firewood permit.

Enlisted force structure

The latest version of Air Force Instruction 26-2618, the enlisted force structure, is available online at: <http://www.e-publishing.af.mil/shared/media/epubs/AFI36-2618.pdf>.
New hours at wing self-help store
The new wing self-help store hours of operation are 8 a.m. to noon weekdays. The store is closed on weekends, holidays and Air Mobility Command Family Days.

Earth Day celebration

An Earth Day celebration is 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 22 in front of the base commissary. For more information, call 982-3913.



McChord Chaplain Corps Faith & Worship Programs

For more information on Chapel services and programs, please call 982-5556. To contact Duty Chaplain after duty hours, contact the Command Post at 982-2635.

CATHOLIC SERVICES and RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:
All Catholic services are in chapel two.
Saturday:
4 p.m. Confession: Chapel 2, Bldg. 181
5 p.m. Mass: Chapel 2, Bldg. 181
Sunday:
9:30 a.m. Mass: Chapel 2, Bldg. 181
11 a.m. Mass: Chapel 2, Bldg. 181
12:30 p.m. Why Catholic? Small Group Study: Chapel Support Center, Bldg. 746
Monday:
Noon. Why Catholic? Small Group Study: Chapel Support Center, Bldg. 746

Wednesday:
6:30 p.m. Faith Formation: 1st, 2nd & 3rd Wednesday of the month: Chapel Support Center, Bldg. 746
6:30 p.m. Why Catholic? Small Group Study: Chapel Support Center, Bldg. 746
PROTESTANT SERVICES and RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:
Sunday:
8:30 a.m. Liturgical Worship: Chapel 1, Bldg. 180
9:45 a.m. Sunday School: Chapel Support Center, Bldg. 746
11 a.m. Traditional Worship: Chapel 1, Bldg. 180
11 a.m. Contemporary Worship: Chapel Support Center, Bldg. 746

JEWISH SERVICES:
Friday:
6 p.m. Every 1st, 3rd & 5th Friday of the month: Ft. Lewis, Chapel 5, Bldg. T-2270
OTHER PROGRAMS:
The following Chapel programs take place at the Chapel Support Center, Bldg. 746.
Tuesday:
9:30 a.m. Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS); 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month
6 p.m. Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) Bible Study; 1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesday of the month
Wednesday:
11 a.m. Adult Bible Study



<p>The following Airmen graduated March 26 as part of the Julius A. Kolb Airman Leadership School Class 09-C.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Senior Airman Steven Arrowood, 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron• Senior Airman Mark Broadhead, 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron• Senior Airman Christopher Buck, 446th AMXS• Senior Airman Larry Craig, 62nd Aerial Port Squadron• Senior Airman Gary Ellis, 62nd Security Forces Squadron• Senior Airman Darren Firth, 62nd Operations Support Squadron• Senior Airman Jason Flynn, 4th Airlift Squadron• Senior Airman Brett Gjefle, 62nd LRS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Senior Airman William Hunnicutt, 62nd OSS• Senior Airman Bradley Johnson, Det. 1, 10th Combat Weather Squadron• Senior Airman Jonathon May, 62nd APS• Senior Airman Nicholas Miano, 62nd APS• Senior Airman Michael Redick, 62nd Maintenance Squadron• Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Reiss, 22nd Special Tactics Squadron• Senior Airman Clinton Riley, 62 AMXS• Senior Airman Steven Southworth, 194th Intelligence Squadron• Staff Sgt. Adam Stabler, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron• Senior Airman Charles Swaggart, 62nd SFS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Senior Airman Robert Tingle, 62nd AMXS• Senior Airman Mitchell Vines, 62nd AMXS• Senior Airman Todd Viney, 62nd SFS• Senior Airman Jarrod Wetherill, 62nd Communications Squadron• Senior Airman Salvador Ynostroza, 62nd MXS <p>AWARD RECIPIENTS: John L. Levitow recipient: Senior Airman David D. Yorton, 22nd STS Distinguished Graduate and Leadership Award: Senior Airman Kristopher Savell, 62nd AMXS Distinguished Graduate and Academic Achievement Award: Senior Airman Aindrea Tait, 62nd MXS</p>
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